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SERIAL NO. 09/065,787

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

In re application of:
Adams, et al.

Serial Number: 09/065,787

Filed: April 23, 1998

For: METHODS AND SYSTEMS FOR A
TELEPHONE E-MAIL INTERFACE

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Group Art Unit: 2662

Examiner: Logsdon, J.

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APPLICANTS' APPEAL BRIEF

I. INTRODUCTION

Applicants-inventors ("Applicants") and assignee Nortel Networks Limited
(formerly Northern Telecom Limited) respectfully submit the present brief in support of
the patentability of the claims of the above-referenced application.

1. **REAL PARTY IN INTEREST**

The real party in interest is Nortel Networks Limited, a limited liability corporation of Canada, assignee of the interests in the invention from the named inventors.

2. **RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES**

None.

3. **STATUS OF CLAIMS**

Claims 1-42 are pending. Of these, claims 1, 13, 17, 20, 22, 23, 26-28 and 30 are independent. No claims have been canceled.

4. **STATUS OF AMENDMENTS**

Applicants submitted a Response to Final Action dated September 30, 2002, including a proposed amendment to claim 13, in response to a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. This amendment was entered on January 14, 2003, in a second Advisory Action.

5. **SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention comprises a method and apparatus for providing an automated interface to transfer a voice message from a calling party in a voice network to a recipient in a data network (e.g. the Internet) by means of the calling party entering the recipient's e-mail address. (Application, p. 4, lns. 2-4). The invention solves the problem of getting a voice message to someone who has an e-mail account on a data network (but who may not have a telephone or voice-mail system) where the caller has the recipient's e-mail address but only has access to a telephone on the voice network,

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without requiring pre-planning on the part of either the caller or the recipient.

(Application, p. 3, lns. 7-13; p. 4, lns. 2-4)

The Internet is a worldwide collection of computer networks connected to allow the transfer of information between entities connected to the individual networks. A popular form of information transfer is in the form of electronic mail typically referred to as "e-mail." E-mail usually comprises a short message typed on a computer terminal which is addressed to a recipient using letter type address. The Internet Service Provider (ISP) stores the message until it can be forwarded to a destination ISP serving the addressed recipient. The destination ISP holds the message in storage until the addressed recipient next requests reception of stored mail. (Application, p. 2, lns. 1-9).

As is well known, e-mail may and usually does comprise only a straightforward typed message. However, the message may be encrypted so that others cannot easily intercept and read the message. Further files may be attached to the e-mail message in the form of various software formats including word processing, spreadsheets and even voice and/or video recordings. Voice files would normally be in digital data network format. A common digital voice file format is a WAV file. Other digital audio formats are file formats such as AU, MIDI and AIF. Such a voice file can be compressed before transmission to reduce transmission time and storage space. (Application, p. 2, lns. 10-17).

While a data network may be difficult to quantify, it is typically used for communications between computer type devices, transmits communications in digital format and usually uses packet transmission techniques as opposed to circuit techniques used in the Public Switching Telephone Network (PSTN). (Application, p. 2, lns. 18-21)

Many times, however, an individual would like to send an e-mail message to an intended recipient but does not have immediate access to a computer connected to the Internet. As there are typically telephones conveniently available in the form of business, home, coin operated pay phones and even cellular phones, it would be very convenient to be able to send messages to an addressee from a conveniently available telephone rather than having to find an available Internet connected computer terminal. (Application, p. 3, lns. 1-6)

It would be convenient to be able to contact a person by e-mail through the use of a standard telephone or mobile station. Such devices are typically more accessible as a means of sending a message than are networked computers. Further, the person wanting to send the message may only know the e-mail address of the intended recipient or realize that e-mail is the preferred means of contacting the recipient. There are also instances where the message to be delivered can only be conveniently delivered in voice form but the intended recipient cannot be conveniently contacted via a telephone. (Application, p. 3, lns. 7-13)

The solution to this problem, defined in claims 1-42 of the present application, involves permitting a caller on the telephone system to leave a voice message to be attached to an e-mail sent to the recipient's e-mail address by entering the recipient's e-mail address (rather than the recipient's telephone number) into the telephone device.

6. ISSUES

Whether the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-42 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) was improper?

7. GROUPING OF CLAIMS

Applicant contests Examiner's rejections of claims 1-42 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Of these, claims 1, 13, 17, 20, 22, 23, 26-28 and 30 are independent. For purposes of this appeal, Applicants consider each of the independent claims, and their respective dependent claims, as separate groups. Thus, the groups of claims are 1-12, 13-16, 17-19, 20-21, 22-25, 26, 27, 28-29 and 30-42.

Each of the independent claims of these groups includes a common limitation that distinguishes from the prior art, reciting in substance, "inputting a recipient e-mail address received from a calling party to be stored in a service provider." *See, e.g.*, Appendix (claim 1).

The substance of this limitation is recited using various other language in the other independent claims. *See, e.g.*, Appendix (claims 13 *et seq.*) Accordingly, for convenience for purposes of this appeal only, the patentability of the claims will generally be argued with reference to claim 1. There is, however, no concession that, if the rejection were to be affirmed as to any one of the independent claims, the other independent or dependent claims would thereby be necessarily unpatentable.

II. ARGUMENT

A. Summary of Pertinent Prosecution

The present application was filed on April 23, 1998, with 28 claims. On February 1, 1999, a Preliminary Amendment was filed, adding claims 29-42.

A first Official Action was mailed May 8, 2001, rejecting claims 3-5 and 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Claims 1, 6, 11-13, 15-18, 20-22, 30, 31, 33, 35, 36, 39 and 42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as assertedly anticipated by United

States Patent No. 6,014,711 ("Brown"). The remaining claims were rejected as assertedly obvious over Brown in view of United States Patent No. 6,219,413 ("Burg"), United States Patent No. 5,353,331 ("Emery et al."), United States Patent No. 5,684,862 ("Finnigan") and/or the Applicants' Admitted Prior Art.

Applicants responded to the first Official Action on August 8, 2001, amending claims 1-13, 17, 20-24, 26-28 and 30. As amended, each independent claim includes a limitation reciting, in substance, "inputting a recipient e-mail address received from a calling party to be stored in a service provider." *See, e.g.,* Appendix (claim 1 *et seq.*).

The Final Action under appeal was mailed July 31, 2002. Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Claims 1-42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

On September 30, 2002, Applicants submitted a Response to Final Action. In this Response, Applicants sought to amend claim 13 to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Applicants traversed the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), with supporting reasons therefor.

On November 4, 2002, the Examiner mailed an Advisory Action, refusing to enter the amendments and maintaining the rejections of claims 1-42.

On or about November 26, 2002, Applicants' attorney conducted a telephone interview with the Examiner. In this interview, the Examiner indicated that, subject to amendment of claim 13 to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, the claims appeared to be patentable over the prior art of record.

On January 14, 2003, the Examiner mailed a second Advisory Action. The second Advisory Action entered the previously submitted amendments to claim 13 to

overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. However, contrary to the indications during the November 26, 2002 telephone interview, the Examiner maintained the rejections of claims 1-42 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). The Examiner stated his reasons as follows:

Applicant argues that the modification of Brown using Hyde-Thomson would not have been obvious because the modification would have certain disadvantages. But whether disadvantages exist is irrelevant to a 103(a) rejection (assuming, of course, that they do not involve either inoperability or a significant change in principle of operation); what matters is whether the modification would have been obvious because of the resulting advantages.

(Advisory Action dated January 14, 2003). This appeal followed.

B. Legal Requirements for an Obviousness Rejection

The applicable patent statute, 35 U.S.C. 103(a) provides, in pertinent part:

A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The procedure that must be followed in applying Section 103 in making obviousness is set forth in *Graham v. John Deere*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 459 (1966):

Under Section 103, the scope and content of the prior art are to be determined; the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue are to be ascertained; and the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art resolved. Against this background, the obviousness or nonobviousness of the subject matter is determined. Such secondary considerations as commercial success, long felt but unsolved needs, failure of others, etc., might be utilized to give light to the circumstances surrounding the origin of the subject matter sought to be patented. As indicia of obviousness or nonobviousness, these inquiries may have relevancy.

See, also, Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP) Section 2141.

During prosecution, the Examiner has the initial burden of establishing a *prima facie* case of obviousness. MPEP 2142. To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art references (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must be found in the prior art, and not based on Applicant's disclosure. *Id. See, also, In re Vaecky*, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ 1438 (Fed.Cir. 1991); MPEP 2143.

If a *prima facie* case of obviousness is established, the burden shifts to the Applicant to come forward with arguments and/or evidence to rebut the *prima facie* case. *See, In re Dillon*, 919 F.2d 688, 692, 16 USPQ2d, 1896, 1901 (Fed.Cir. 1990), *cert. denied*, 500 U.S. 904 (1991). Even if the examiner determines there is factual support for rejecting the claimed invention under 35 U.S.C. 103, the examiner must consider any evidence supporting the patentability of the claimed invention, such as any evidence in the specification or any other evidence submitted by the Applicant. The ultimate determination of patentability must be based on the entire record, by a preponderance of evidence, with due consideration to the persuasiveness of any arguments and any secondary evidence. *In re Oetiker*, 977 F.2d 1443, 24 USPQ2d 1443 (Fed.Cir. 1992).

C. Illustrative Claim 1 of the Application

Although each of the claims at issue in this appeal includes a different combination of limitations, all the claims include the substance of a key limitation, “inputting a recipient e-mail address received from a calling party to be stored in a service provider.” For example, claim 1 recites:

1. The method of automating the delivery of a voice originated message to a data network recipient comprising the steps of:

inputting a recipient e-mail address received from a calling party to be stored in a service provider;

supplying a voice originated message to be stored in the service provider; and

converting the stored voice originated message to a data network format.

(Emphasis added). The foregoing emphasized limitation is also found in substance in the remaining claims under rejection, though variously phrased.

D. The Examiner’s Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 6, 11-13, 15-18, 20-22, 30, 31, 33, 35, 36, 39 and 42, claims 1, 13, 17, 20, 22, 23, 26-28 and 30 of which are independent, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being assertedly unpatentable over Brown in view of Hyde-Thomson. (Official Action dated July 31, 2002 at 5-6). The Examiner contends that Brown discloses most of the elements of each of these claims, but acknowledged its failure to disclose the limitation requiring inputting a recipient e-mail address received from a calling party. *Id.* Instead, Brown discloses sending an information message over the Internet to an unknown address of a recipient by inputting a telephone number of the recipient. (Brown, Abstract; col. 2, lines 56-61).

The Examiner contended Hyde-Thomson teaches a message handling system in which a voice-originated message is converted to a digital voice file, which is stored in a shared memory device corresponding to the intended recipient's mailbox, using standard e-mail software. (Official Action dated July 31, 2002 at 3-4). In Hyde-Thomson, a voice gateway PC records and digitizes the user's voice message, and attaches the digitized voice file to a text e-mail file. (Hyde-Thomson, col. 3, lns. 54-67). The Examiner contended that "it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the invention of Brown so that the e-mail address is known by the sender, because e-mail addresses are often times easy for users to remember, and specifying the e-mail address by the user would reduce network traffic." (Final Action dated July 31, 2002 at 4).

The remaining claims were rejected on the basis of the combination of Brown and Hyde-Thomson as discussed above, plus various combinations of Burg, Emery et al., Finnigan and Applicants' Admitted Prior art. However, because these rejections rely fundamentally on the Examiner's proposed combination of Brown and Hyde-Thomson, for purposes of this appeal, Applicants' argument will focus on Brown and Hyde-Thomson.

E. The Examiner's Rejection Was Procedurally and Factually in Error

1. The Examiner's *Prima Facie* Showing of Obviousness Was Improperly Made

It is fundamental that the teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must be found in the prior art, and not based on the applicant's disclosure. *Id. See, also, In re Vaecky*, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ 1438 (Fed.Cir. 1991). Here, the Examiner cited no prior art showing that "e-mail addresses are often-times easy for users to remember." In fact, while some e-mail addresses may be

easy to remember, some e-mail addresses may be difficult to remember. It is acknowledged, however, that sometimes the caller only knows the e-mail address (or otherwise has it recorded), regardless of whether the e-mail address is easy to remember or not. Therefore, entering the e-mail address directly does result in advantages. However, those advantages are revealed in Applicants' disclosure. Furthermore, the desire to achieve those advantages is a major purpose of the invention, discussed extensively in the application. (*See, e.g.,* Application, p. 2, ln. 1 to p. 3, ln. 14) Use of advantages revealed only in Applicants' disclosure is inappropriate in formulating a *prima facie* showing of obviousness. *See, In re Vaecki, supra.*

2. The Examiner Improperly Failed to Accord Any Weight to Applicants' Showing of Disadvantages with the Examiner's Proposed Combination

It is basic that "[k]nown disadvantages in old devices which would naturally discourage search for new inventions may be taken into account in determining obviousness." *United States v. Adams*, 383 U.S. 39, 52, 148 USPQ 479, 484 (1966). Here, at the time of the invention, it was known that entry of e-mail addresses into telephone devices was disadvantageous because e-mail addresses are often longer than telephone numbers and include alphabetic and other characters that may not be conveniently input into a telephone keypad. Where an e-mail address is to be entered directly, Hyde-Thomson teaches using a computer with an alpha-numeric keypad. (Hyde-Thomson, col. 3, lns. 54-67).

It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner improperly failed to accord any weight to the Applicants' showing of disadvantages to the combination of Brown and

Hyde-Thomson, dismissing those considerations as “irrelevant.” In particular, in the January 14, 2003 Advisory Action, the Examiner stated:

Applicant argues that the modification of Brown using Hyde-Thomson would not have been obvious because the modification would have certain disadvantages. But whether disadvantages exist is irrelevant to a 103(a) rejection (assuming, of course, that they do not involve either inoperability or a significant change in principle of operation); what matters is whether the modification would have been obvious because of the resulting advantages.”

(Advisory Action dated January 14, 2003). It is respectfully submitted that, in view of *United States v. Adams, supra*, the Examiner’s finding that Applicants’ showing of disadvantages was “irrelevant” was reversible error.

3. Applicants Proceeded Contrary to Conventional Wisdom

Where an inventor’s “insight was contrary to the understandings and expectations of the art, the structure effectuating it would not have been obvious to those skilled in the art.” *Schenck v. Nortron Corp.*, 713 F.2d 782, 218 USPQ 698 (Fed.Cir. 1983). Here, conventional wisdom in the art was that, to create a voice-mail to be attached to an e-mail using a telephone device, one either needed a computer to input the e-mail address directly (as in Hyde-Thomson) or one needed to have a translator and to create a look-up table to convert “unique identifiers” into e-mail addresses (as in Brown). Conventional wisdom was to the effect that it was not practical to attempt to enter e-mail addresses into a telephone keypad directly. Otherwise, there would have been no purpose for the translator in Brown and no purpose for requiring a computer to enter the e-mail address, as in Hyde-Thomson. However, in providing for direct inputting of the e-mail address by the telephone caller, the present invention proceeded contrary to this conventional

wisdom. This also supports a finding of non-obviousness. *See, e.g., Schenck v. Nortron Corp., supra.*

4. Applicants' Omission of Steps Required by Brown and Hyde-Thomson Shows Non-Obviousness

Brown requires the user to create a look-up table correlating telephone numbers and e-mail addresses. Creating this table requires pre-planning on the part of the recipient, i.e., to enter the telephone numbers and e-mail addresses. Brown further requires that, during operation, the system take the steps of looking up the entered telephone number and translating it to the correlated e-mail address. In Brown, these steps are apparently considered by the disadvantages attendant to the limitations of a telephone keypad. Combining Hyde-Thomson (which provides for direct entry of the e-mail address into a computer does not solve this problem, because the caller may not have access to a computer at the time he/she desires to leave a voice message.

"[O]mission of an element and *retention* of its function is an indicia of unobviousness." *In re Edge*, 359 F.2d 896, 149 USPQ 556 (CCPA 1966).). Here, the present invention omits elements required by Brown (the look-up table) and by Hyde-Thomson (the computer with its alpha-numeric keyboard), while still providing the function of the proposed combination of these references (sending a voice-originated message from a telephone caller to an e-mail address). This further supports non-obviousness.

5. The Present Invention Solves Problems Not Solved by Brown or Hyde-Thomson, Even If Combined.

A person frequently has multiple telephone numbers and multiple e-mail addresses that are used at different times or under different circumstances. There often is

no unique association between a particular telephone number and a particular desired e-mail address. The hypothetical combination proposed by the Examiner provides no solution to the problem of what to do when there is no unique association between the telephone number and the desired e-mail address, or where the telephone number/e-mail address pair has not yet been entered into the table, and the caller does not have access to a computer. The present invention does solve this problem.

For example, consider the situation where the caller is on the road and has only a telephone and the recipient is on a business trip and has no access to his/her work e-mail, but does have access to a personal e-mail account. Following Brown, the caller would call the recipient's work telephone number and, assuming the recipient had provided the telephone number-e-mail address information required for the translator's look-up table in advance, the system would permit the caller to leave a voice-mail at the uniquely correlated e-mail address. However, if the recipient's work e-mail address is the address correlated to the work telephone number (which would nearly always be the case), the voice-mail message would be forwarded to the recipient's work e-mail address. This is useless and undesired in this situation, because the recipient is not at work and has no access to his/her work e-mail. Hyde-Thomson's direct entry of the e-mail address into a computer does not solve this problem, because the caller does not have access to a computer in this situation. Thus, the caller desiring to leave a message is frustrated – even though the caller has a telephone and knows the e-mail address the recipient uses while away from the office, the caller has no way to leave a message that the recipient will receive.

In the present invention, the disadvantages of Brown, even as hypothetically modified by Hyde-Thomson as proposed by the Examiner, are eliminated. By permitting direct entry of the desired e-mail address by the caller into a telephone (notwithstanding the difficulties of using a telephone-type keypad to do so), as in the present invention, the calling party knows where the e-mail including the voice-originated message will be delivered without ambiguity. There is no need for the calling party to know the recipient's voice mailbox number in order to send a voice-originated message. With Brown, despite the complexity of its look-up table, if the intended recipient does not have a telephone number, it is simply impossible to send a voice-originated message. There is no need to have a computer, as in Hyde-Thomson.

The present invention, by permitting the caller to input the desired e-mail address directly, permits leaving a recipient a voice-mail message without the calling party having a computer, without knowing the recipient's telephone number and without the need for the recipient to even have a telephone or to do anything in advance (such as creating a look-up table associating his/her telephone number(s) with his/her e-mail address(es)). Thus, unlike Brown (which requires the recipient to previously set up the look-up table), and unlike Hyde-Thomson (which requires the caller to have access to a computer or to know the recipient's voice mailbox number) no pre-planning or other preparations are required on the part of either the caller or the recipient. The present invention thus enables services such as pay-per-use telephone services, where neither the caller nor the intended recipient need to do anything in advance, such as buying special equipment, inputting a list of telephone numbers correlated to e-mails in advance, etc.

This would not be possible under even the hypothetical combination of Brown and Hyde-Thomson relied upon by the Examiner in the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

“[A] patentable invention may lie in the discovery of the source of a problem even though the remedy may be obvious once the source of the problem is identified. This is *part* of the ‘subject matter as a whole’ which should always be considered in determining the obviousness of an invention under 35 U.S.C. 103.” *In re Spinnoble*, 405 F.2d 578, 585, 160 USPQ 237, 243 (CCPA 1969). Here, the inventors’ recognition that the most important problems were that the recipient would seldom set up the required look-up table in advance and that the caller could often not have access to a computer, rather than the disadvantages and limitations of using a telephone keypad, led to the solution of permitting the caller to input an e-mail address into a telephone. The Applicants’ recognition of these problems – and their solution – further supports a finding of non-obviousness. *See, In re Spinnoble, supra.*

F. Claims 2-5, 7-10, 14, 19, 23-29, 32, 34, 37-38 and 40-41

The remaining claims 2-5, 7-10, 14, 19, 23-29, 32, 34, 37-38 and 40-41 were rejected on the basis of the combination of Brown and Hyde-Thomson as discussed above, plus various combinations of Burg, Emery et al., Finnigan and Applicants’ Admitted Prior art. However, because the rejections of these claims also rely fundamentally on the Examiner’s proposed combination of Brown and Hyde-Thomson, already addressed above, the rejections of these claims over the Brown/Hyde-Thomson combination, and these additional references as applied to other limitations of the claims, need not be discussed separately. However, in the event that any of claims 1, 6, 11-13,

15-18, 20-22, 30, 31, 33, 35, 36, 39 and 42 are not found to be patentable, it is not conceded that the remaining claims would be necessarily unpatentable.

III. CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the Final Rejection of claims 1-42 under 35 U.S. C. 103(a) is improper and should be reversed.

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Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX – CLAIMS ON APPEAL

1. The method of automating the delivery of a voice originated message to a data network recipient comprising the steps of:

inputting a recipient e-mail address received from a calling party to be stored in a service provider;

supplying a voice originated message to be stored in the service provider; and

converting the stored voice originated message to a data network format.

wherein the e-mail address & the voice message are input and supplied during a call initiation.

2. The method of claim 1 comprising the additional step of:

sending a notification message from the service provider to the recipient

informing the recipient of a stored voice originated message ^{to be accessed via e-mail} and the method of access.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein the notification message is sent through a wireless communication network.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein the notification message is sent in the form of a page.

5. The method of claim 3 wherein the notification message is sent in the form of a short message service message.

6. The method of claim 1 comprising the additional step of:

sending the converted voice originated message as electronic mail to the recipient.

7. The method of claim 6 comprising the additional step of sending a notification message from the service provider to the recipient of the electronic mail wherein the notification message informs the recipient that the recipient has been sent a converted voice originated message in the form of electronic mail.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein the notification message is sent through a wireless communication network.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the notification message is sent in the form of a page.

10. The method of claim 8 wherein the notification message is sent in the form of a short message service message.

11. The method of claim 1 comprising the additional step of:
sending the converted voice originated message as an electronic mail attachment to the recipient.

12. The method of claim 1 comprising the additional step of:
confirming that the recipient's address is correct before supplying a voice originated message to be stored; and

verifying the supplied voice originated message before sending a notification message to the recipient at said e-mail address.

13. Apparatus for automating the delivery of a voice network originated voice message to a data network recipient comprising:

service provider means including means for storing a data network recipient's e-mail address received from a calling party address and a voice network originated message for that recipient;

voice network means for inputting a recipient e-mail address to be stored in said service provider;

voice network means for supplying a message to be stored in said service provider; and

means for converting the supplied message to a format appropriate for transmission over a data network.

14. The apparatus of claim 13 comprising in addition:

means for sending a message from the service provider to the recipient informing the recipient of a stored message and the method of access.

15. The apparatus of claim 13 comprising in addition:

means for sending the converted message as electronic mail to the recipient.

16. Apparatus as claimed in claim 13 wherein said means for inputting and means for supplying comprises telephone type communication means.

17. A system for automating a communication from a voice network to a data network comprising:

means for inputting a recipient e-mail address received from a calling party to be stored in a service provider;

a calling party voice network terminal;

a service provider;

means interconnecting said voice network terminal and said service provider;

means for converting inputs obtained from said calling party voice network terminal to a data network address;

means for converting a voice message received from said calling party voice network terminal to an audio format transmittable over a data network; and

means for storing the converted voice message.

18. The system of claim 17 comprising in addition:

means for forwarding said converted voice message to the stored data network address.

19. The system of claim 17 comprising in addition:

means for notifying a recipient at said stored data network address that a voice message is available for retrieval.

20. A method of delivering a voice originated message to a data network recipient comprising the steps of:

inputting a voice network originated recipient e-mail address received from a calling party to a service provider;
supplying a voice network originated message to the service provider; and
converting the supplied message to a format suitable for transmission over a data network.

21. The method of claim 20 comprising the additional steps of:

storing the recipient e-mail address;

storing the converted message; and

converting the supplied message to an audio format.

22. Apparatus for delivering a voice originated message to a data network recipient comprising:

means for inputting a voice network originated recipient e-mail address received from a calling party to a service provider;

means for supplying a voice network originated message to the service provider;
and

means for converting the supplied message to a format suitable for transmission over a data network.

23. Apparatus for storing and delivering a voice originated message to a data network recipient, comprising:

circuitry for receiving a recipient e-mail address from a calling party;

circuitry for receiving and converting a voice message to a data message having a data network format;

a store for storing the data message and recipient e-mail address;

circuitry for generating a notification message for notifying the recipient of the stored data format message; and

transmission circuitry for transmitting the notification message to a wireless communication network.

24. The apparatus of claim 23 wherein the wireless communication network is comprised of a network for paging wherein the notification message is sent in the form of a page.

25. The apparatus of claim 23 wherein the wireless communication network comprises a mobile telephone network and wherein the notification message is sent in the form of a short message service message.

26. An apparatus for delivering a voice originated message to a data network recipient, comprising;

circuitry for receiving a recipient e-mail address from a calling party;

circuitry for receiving a voice message and for converting the voice message to a data network format;

a store for storing the message in the data network format;

means for transmitting the data network message over a data network to the recipient e-mail address; and

means for transmitting a notification message to the recipient to inform the recipient that a data network message has been transmitted over the data network.

27. An apparatus for delivering a voice originated message to a data network recipient, comprising:

means for receiving a voice message and recipient e-mail address from a calling party;

means for storing the received message and recipient e-mail address;

means for transmitting the message over a data network in a data network format to the recipient e-mail address; and

means for transmitting a notification message to the recipient to inform the recipient that a data network message has been transmitted over the data network.

28. Apparatus for storing and delivering a voice originated message to a data network recipient comprising:

means for receiving a voice message and recipient e-mail address from a calling party;

means for storing the received message and recipient e-mail address;

means for converting the received message to a data network format before forwarding same to the recipient;

means for generating a notification message for notifying the recipient of the stored message; and

means for transmitting the notification message to a wireless communication network.

29. The apparatus of claim 26 further including circuitry to cause the notification message to be transmitted simultaneously or nearly simultaneously to the transmission of the data network message over the data network.

30. Apparatus for automating the delivery of a voice network originated voice message from a sender to a data network recipient comprising:

means for a calling party to input at least one recipient e-mail address to a service provider;

data network means having at least one data network address from which text messages can be retrieved by a recipient of a notification message sent to the recipient address;

storage means for storing information representing a data network address and information representing an associated voice network originated voice message for transmission to the data network address;

voice network means for receiving and thereafter transmitting to the storage means information representing the data network address and the associated voice message;

means for converting the information representing the voice message to a format appropriate for transmission over the data network means to the data network address; and

wherein the data network means transmits the converted information representing the voice message to the data network address for retrieval by the message recipient.

31. The apparatus of claim 30, further comprising address conversion means for converting the information representing the data network address to a format appropriate for transmission over the data network means to the data network address.

32. The apparatus of claim 30, further comprising notification means for transmitting a signal to the data network recipient indicating receipt at the data network address of information representing the voice message.

33. The apparatus of claim 30, further comprising message display means for converting data representing the voice message received at the data network address into text for review by the recipient.

34. The apparatus of claim 30, further comprising certification means for transmitting to the voice message sender an indication of receipt at the data network address of the information representing the voice message.

35. The apparatus of claim 30, further providing means for verifying the accuracy of the data network address prior to transmission over the data network means of the information representing the voice message.

36. The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the data network address conversion means includes means for recognizing and converting voice representation of the data network address to digital data for transmission over the data network means.

37. The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the data network address conversion means includes means for recognizing touch tone entries representing the data network address.

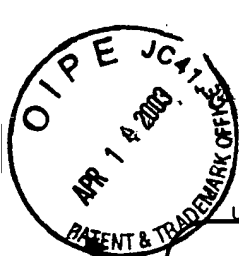
38. The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the network data address is input to the voice network means by a touch tone code representing the address.

39. The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the message conversion means converts the voice message into a voice file appropriate for transmission to the data network address as an attachment to an e-mail message.

40. The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the notification means transmits a page to the data network recipient.

41. The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the notification means transmits the notification via a wireless communication network.

42. The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the data network means employs push technology means for allowing receipt of the voice message at the data network address without any action by the recipient.



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